

Dear FCC:

I just wanted to take a few minutes to let you know my thoughts on the question of replacing existing FM translators with LPFM. I speak not as anyone with any professional association with or knowledge of radio, but simply as an ordinary person who has listened to stations on FM translators most of my adult life.

I understand that many proponents of LPFM feel that there is little value in the regional/national services that are frequently provided by FM translators. I could not disagree more with that statement.

The two stations using FM translation that I am most familiar with are 88.3 K-LYT (now M88), which I listened to between 1987 and about 1999, and 90.5 K-LOVE, which I started listening to not long after I stopped listening to K-LYT/M88. These two Christian stations broadcast in my home city of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and both stations exist not just to turn a buck, but to make a difference in the community. I believe they do just that, because they seek to provide content that is family-friendly, relevant to our modern culture, instructive, and uplifting. If you have ever had a really rotten day where everything that can go wrong does go wrong, then out of the blue someone who doesn't know you from Adam says something that is absolutely relevant to your situation and shows you by example a better way to view/approach things, that is a picture of how Christian radio--which from what I understand is frequently broadcast by FM translators--serves the community. In my own life, I heard about K-LYT my freshman year in college, so one day when I was driving across town, I decided I'd check it out. The very second song I heard that day told me something I really needed to hear--that God loved me and was eagerly waiting for me to come home. And there would be days where I would be right on the verge of a bad mood, but hearing that uplifting music or teaching would help to put me back in a good mood, better able to respond to the people around me with courtesy, respect, and graciousness.

And the thing is, there are tons of stories out there far more dramatic than mine. Every so often, K-LOVE has a call-in time where people are invited to leave a recording saying how the station has been an agent in helping them, then the station picks the best of the recordings and plays them back for all the listeners. Some of the stories just make you shake your head in amazement--people on the verge of suicide just "happen" to find the station before they can go through with it and are encouraged to hang in there; one member of a couple on the verge of divorce "happens" to find the station and is pointed to a book or a church or something that helps him or her to put the marriage back together; a widow who is grieving the untimely death of her husband hears a word of encouragement that helps her keep moving forward; a young man who has lost a job and is worried how he's going to pay the bills hears a teaching on the radio and realizes that he needs to start pursuing something different; the mom of a child with ADD who has been being a brat switches on the station and the child hears the music and immediately calms down. Who would have guessed that a station being broadcast by FM translation could be a tool to help accomplish all of that?!?

I have to confess a certain amount of ignorance and acknowledge that I don't really understand how difficult it would be or how much it would cost to convert a currently existing station being broadcast by FM translation to one that operates by LPFM. What I do know is that given a choice between a station that broadcasts by FM translation and does the kind of things that M88 and K-LOVE do and one that broadcasts by LPFM but doesn't offer the same kind of programming, it's no competition which one I'd choose. Our culture is in many ways unraveling around us; we have zealots full with hate who try to force a change in society by committing violence against the innocent, children full of rage who commit atrocities like the one carried out at Columbine High School, and citizens full of fear who look around at all of this and turn and bury their heads under the covers rather than step out and try to make a difference. Yet that is exactly what many stations what many stations that broadcast by FM translation seek to do: make a difference in people's lives, one person at a time. If you care about the state of society and have ever longed to see a heartfelt change in how we as individuals relate to one another, please don't sacrifice our FM translators--you'll take away a tool for accomplishing much good and leave a hole in our

communities that may not be so easy to fill.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read and consider these comments.

Sincerely yours,

Natalie Stroud